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Ludlow Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1951

Public Health Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., C.H.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.Y.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

RONALD F. SAUNDERS, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., CERT. S.I.B.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

G. S. BANKS, M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1951

LUDLOW.

1st July, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Report on the health of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1951. It has been drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular 42/51 dated 10th December, 1951.

The estimated population as at mid-1951 is 13,980 which is 560 less than the estimate for 1950.

Births registered numbered 214 which gives a 'corrected' Birth-rate of 18.2 per 1,000 of the population. (Eng. & W. = 15.5).

Deaths numbered 223 and the 'corrected' Death-rate = 13.8. The Death-rate for Eng. & W. was 12.5. The three chief causes of death were Heart Diseases, Cerebral Haemorrhage, and Cancer. These causes accounted for 145 out of the total number of deaths (223).

Infant deaths numbered nine and this gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 42 per 1,000 live births. This is higher than the rate for the country. (29).

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease but Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent among the children. None of these cases proved fatal.

Only one death took place from Tuberculosis.

A total of 40 houses were completed by the Council during the year and 22 were under construction at the end of the year. It is planned to commence a further 68 houses during 1952.

During the year the new Sewage Disposal Works at Cleobury Mortimer were completed. Schemes for Sewage Disposal at Ashford Carbonell and at Clee Hill and Bitterley are also under consideration by the Council.

Progress has been made during the year with regard to various new water supply schemes and some of these have been completed. In other cases the Council's schemes are awaiting approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer of Health.

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS—		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	204	94	110
Illegitimate	...	10	3	7

BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION = 15.3

STILL-BIRTHS—

Legitimate	...	...	5	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—

STILL-BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS = 22.8

DEATHS—	223	130	93
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DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION = 15.9

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

		Number	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a) From Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	—
(b) From other Puerperal Causes	...	Nil	—
Totals	...	Nil	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR—

		Number	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a) Legitimate children per 1,000 live legitimate birth	...	9	44
(b) Illegitimate children per 1,000 live illegitimate children	...	Nil	—
(c) All children per 1,000 total live births	...	9	42

Number of deaths from:	Cancer (all ages)	...	...	18
	Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
	Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
	Tuberculosis—			
	Pulmonary	...	...	1
	Non-pulmonary	...	...	Nil

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	113,004
Population (1951 Census)	13,946
Number of inhabited houses	4,099
Rateable Value of the District	£66,244
Estimated product of 1d. Rate	£271

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE

A total of 214 live births were registered and of this number 10 were illegitimate. This is approximately 5% of the total and is the same as for the whole country.

The 'crude' Birth Rate was 15.3 per 1,000 of the population but in order to compare the Birth-rate with that of the country it is necessary to use a 'comparability factor' which for this district is 1.19. The 'corrected' Birth-rate is thus 18.2 per 1,000. (Eng. & Wales = 15.5).

The Birth-rate is therefore higher than that for the country. In 1950 there were 230 live births with a rate of 19.0 per 1,000.

STILL BIRTHS

These numbered five, the same as in the previous year, and the Still Birth Rate is 22.8 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS

There were 223 deaths and the 'crude' Death Rate was 15.9 per 1,000. The 'comparability factor' is 0.84 so that the 'corrected' Death Rate is 13.8. The figure for Eng. & Wales is 12.5. There were 33 more deaths than in 1950 when the D.R. was 11.0 per 1,000.

Diseases of the heart and circulation (86), Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis (41), and Cancer (18) were the chief causes of death as in previous years. Out of 223 deaths these three causes accounted for 145. The only deaths from Infectious Diseases were from Influenza (9), Tuberculosis (1), and Meningococcal Meningitis (1).

INFANT MORTALITY

There were nine deaths of infants under one year of age and this gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 42 per 1,000 live births. This compares unfavourably with a rate of 20 in 1950 when there were only five infant deaths.

The causes of these nine deaths were as follows: Prematurity (2), Pneumonia (3), Congenital Conditions (3), Meningococcal Septicaemia (1). The ages at death were: 1 hr. 10 min.; 15 min.; 1 month; 6 months; 7 months; 8 months (2); 9 months. The Infant Mortality Rate for Eng. and Wales was 29.6 per 1,000 live births.

PUERPERAL DEATHS

There were no deaths from conditions associated with child-birth.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

STAFF

The names and qualifications of the officers in the Health Department are given on the inside of the front cover of the Report. There have been no changes during the year. The extra work which is entailed in the inspection of meat at the Craven Arms slaughterhouse takes up a considerable portion of the Sanitary Inspectors' time and as the area served is much larger than the Ludlow Rural District it might be better if there could be a whole-time meat-inspector appointed by the Ministry of Food for this work.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

There is no change to record with regard to the provision of ambulances in the district. Ambulances are stationed at Ludlow (Tel. 184) and Cross Houses (Tel. 242).

NURSING IN THE HOME

Particulars of the work carried out by the District Nurses, Health Visitors and Mid-wives will be found in the report of the County Medical Officer. The County Council have had difficulty in recruiting a sufficient number of nurses and it has therefore not been found possible to carry out all the work as planned in the National Health Service Act.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

There is no change to report as regards hospitals in the district. Particulars of the hospitals serving the area have been given in previous reports. Cases of Infectious Diseases are removed to Monkmoor Hospital when it is considered necessary. Wards for children are also provided at Monkmoor Hospital instead of at the Royal Salop Infirmary.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

The County Council have a combined School Clinic and Welfare Centre at Dinliam, Ludlow. Orthopaedic cases and Ante-natal cases are also seen at this Clinic.

Cases of Tuberculosis are seen at the Chest Clinic, 17, Belmont, Shrewsbury (Tel. Shrewsbury 3068). One of the Chest Physicians visits Ludlow once a month and cases may be seen there by appointment.

The Clinic for Venereal Diseases is at 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury, the hours for men being 6—8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, and for women 2—4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Diphtheria Immunisation can be carried out at the Schools or Clinic, at the Infant Welfare Centre, or by a private practitioner. Application should be made to the County Health Officer, College Hill, Shrewsbury.

HOME HELP SERVICE

There is an office at 24, Corve Street, Ludlow (Tel. 382) to which application should be made for a Home Help. The W.V.S. ran the service for the County Health Committee but now (April, 1952) it is entirely run by the Health Committee. This service has done useful work and in many cases has been able to assist old persons who might otherwise have had to be moved to an Institution.

Section C SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

This section of the report deals with water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal and other matters connected with environmental hygiene. I am indebted to Mr. Saunders, Sanitary Inspector, and the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. E. Shaw for most of the facts in this section.

WATER SUPPLIES

The supplies under the control of the Council proved adequate during the year, there being no severe drought at any time in the summer or autumn months. The two main supplies are at Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms and both these supplies are chlorinated before going to the distributing mains. The Clee Hill supply will probably have to be augmented and it is proposed to do this by drawing water from the Cornbrook culvert. This will have to be chlorinated before being used for domestic purposes and also means will have to be found to reduce the amount of iron in the water, and the acidity.

PURITY OF SUPPLIES

Bacteriological reports on 119 samples of water were received during the year and of these, 44 were taken from the supplies supervised by the Council. The remainder were taken from private supplies and from proposed new sources of supply.

Chemical reports on samples from the following sources were received and they were all satisfactory: Clee St. Margaret, Munslow and Millichope.

The following were the results from bacteriological examination of samples:—

SOURCE	Total No.		
	of samples	Satis.	Non-Satis.
Craven Arms ...	8	6	2
Cleobury Mortimer ...	8	7	1
St. Milburgha's Well ...	4	3	1
Elan Aqueduct ...	8	6	2
Clee St. Margaret ...	7	5	2
Coreley ...	5	1	4
Clee Hill ...	4	2	2
Totals ...	44	30	14

A further total of 75 samples were reported on as mentioned above.

The standard usually laid down for piped town supplies is that they should not contain more than two presumptive *B. coli* in 100 Ml. of the water. This cannot be insisted on for small supplies in the country as it could not be obtained. The important point is to make sure that there is no risk of human sewage entering the supply at any place. Therefore a careful inspection of the source of the water is essential in each case. A feature of most of the smaller supplies is that most of them become polluted with surface washings at periods when heavy rain follows a period of drought. This pollution is chiefly due to animal organic matter and is not likely to cause any outbreak of disease among human beings. Nevertheless every care should of course be taken to prevent surface water from entering domestic supplies and for this reason it is important that gathering grounds should be inspected from time to time with a view to discovering any possible source of pollution.

NEW WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

The Joint High Level Scheme and the South Eastern Parishes Scheme have not yet been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Council have abandoned for the time being the scheme to supply the Hopton Bank area from local sources on the East side of the Titterstone, Clee Hill. It is hoped that the area will eventually be supplied from the Cornbrook Adit through the mains of the joint High Level Scheme.

A further scheme has now been submitted to the Ministry dealing with the Western Region of the Rural District. If this scheme is approved it will complete the Council's schemes for the whole of the

Rural District.

Other schemes prepared during the year include:—

- (a) A supply to the village of Ticklerton from the bore-hole on the Council's Housing Site.
- (b) Preparation of detailed plans to supply Richards Castle, Ashford Carbonell, and Ashford Bowdler within the framework of the South-Eastern Parishes Scheme.

The Surveyor reports that the following schemes were approved by the Ministry during the year:—

1. The Coreley Village scheme which consists of an extension of the Gibbet Spring supply for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to supply the village. This is now practically completed.
2. The extension of the Clee Hill supply to serve various properties at Knowbury. This scheme is also now almost completed.
3. An extension of the Clee Hill supply with pumping plant to serve houses at Hill Top which are without a good supply. This scheme will be commenced in June, 1952.
4. The extension of the Church Stretton Mains to supply properties at Marshbrook. This will shortly be commenced.
5. At Craven Arms the work of improvement of the supply has now been commenced, a satisfactory tender having been obtained.

The scheme for the supply of the East Foreign Ward, Cleobury Mortimer, is awaiting the approval of the Ministry.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

CLEOBURY MORTIMER

The new disposal works at Cleobury Mortimer have been completed during the year. Many of the houses on the north side of the main street were already connected by house drains to the existing sewer in the main street and the Council has had these drains connected to the new sewer which has been laid. At the end of the year 143 premises had been connected. With regard to premises on the south side of the street, the owners have had to pay the cost of connection as they were not previously connected to any sewer. The Council have agreed to pay half the cost of conversion from earth closets to water closets in cases where the owners agree to have such conversions carried out.

The completion of this disposal scheme at Cleobury Mortimer is a great step forward and should improve the amenities of the town and do away with the pollution of the Brook and the River Rea which formerly existed. A large factory in the town which had a small disposal works of its own has connected up to the new system.

A sample of the effluent from the new works was submitted to the Analyst in September, 1951 and the following is a copy of his report:—

26th September, 1951.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

SAMPLE OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT FROM CLEOBURY MORTIMER WORKS

					Parts per 100,000
Dissolved Oxygen taken up in 5 days at 65 F.	...				2.0
Solids in suspension	...	...	...	...	2.0
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hrs. at 80 F.					0.78
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	5.8
pH reaction	...	...	...	...	7.2
Stability test		(Methylene Blue 5 days)			Satisfactory
Appearance					Colourless
Odour					Slight
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.65

This is a satisfactory sewage effluent.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

CRAVEN ARMS

There is nothing new to report with regard to the new scheme of disposal which the Council have not yet submitted to the Ministry. The present works are completely out-of-date and if more houses are built at Craven Arms nuisance will be sure to arise.

ASHFORD CARBONELL

With regard to the proposed disposal scheme for this Village an Inspector from the Ministry held a preliminary enquiry into the Council's Scheme but so far no approval has been given for proceeding with it. Certain amendments have been suggested.

CLEE HILL AND LION LANE

The Council have also submitted a scheme for the sewerage of these areas and approval is awaited. Difficulties have arisen over the acquisition of a site.

NEWTON, CRAVEN ARMS

The Council decided to make a grant to the owner in respect of the conversion of several closets to water closets and it is hoped the work will shortly be commenced.

Elsewhere in the District there are no disposal works of any size but the Council have small splants to serve groups of Council Houses at different places. The Council have resolved to have a scheme for the village of Bitterley prepared.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

There is no change to report in the system of collection which is weekly at Craven Arms and Cleobury Mortimer and every six weeks elsewhere. Disposal is by ' tipping ' at Cleobury Mortimer, Clee Hill, Woofferton, Onibury Lane and Shawbank.

The tips are treated regularly for rats and no nuisance has arisen. During the year 36 litter baskets were fixed at various places throughout the District.

SALVAGE COLLECTION

No salvage has been collected during the year but the Council have decided that it should again be collected. Waste paper is now (1952) being collected and the Borough Council have agreed to bale it for the present until the Rural District Council can get a suitable place to serve as a salvage store. At present there is no market for waste paper.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ a man to carry out the duties placed upon them by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1952. The present position is that Councils must carry out inspections of *all* premises, including farms, in their districts, but that they must only carry out the destruction of rats, etc., in private houses, business premises and their own property.

The duty of destruction of rats on farms is the responsibility of (a) the occupier of the farm, or (b) the County Agricultural Executive Committee. However, it has now been decided that the Council should carry out the duties of destruction of rats at farms which are close to villages as it would obviously be a waste of effort to clear the village and leave such farms untreated.

Although much has been done over many years to control the rat population all that has been done so far is to reduce the numbers for a time after which they seem to rapidly increase again. The temporary reduction in numbers no doubt brings about conditions which are favourable for the breeding of the rat population as there is a relative increase in the amount of food available. It is certain that rats will not stay or breed where there is no food for them. Householders can therefore avoid leaving food where rats can get at it and thus discourage them from coming to the premises.

During the year 32 contracts have been arranged with owners and 51 individual killings have been carried out.

Number of Properties inspected	...	...	...	1,900
„ „ Properies found to be infested	...	...	...	81
„ „ infested properties treated by the Council				
(a) Under contract	...	...	...	31
(b) as single treatments	...	...	...	29
„ „ notices served	...	...	...	29
„ „ notices complied with	...	...	...	29

INSPECTION BY SANITARY OFFICERS

The following are the particulars of numbers of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

Drainage	...	...	...	864
Water supplies	...	...	...	444
Housing (P.H. and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	171
Housing Act, 1949 — Improvement Grants				10
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	47
Rodent Control	...	...	...	21
National Assistance Acts	...	...	...	3
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	...	...	...	3
Council Houses (applications for)	...	...	...	248
Council Houses	...	...	...	6
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	73
Meat and Food Inspections	...	...	...	338
Dairies and Cow-sheds	...	...	...	14
New Buildings	...	...	...	320
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	12
Factories and Worshops	...	...	...	12
Food Premises	...	...	...	22

Footpaths (Access to Countryside Act, 1949)				64
Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	2
Petrol installations	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	217
				—
			Total	2,909
				—

Number of notices served	(a) Informal	...	78
	(b) Formal	...	5

The majority of notices served, except a small number served late in the year, were complied with.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1949

There are 73 Factories on the Register and of these 17 are without power and 56 have power installed.

The Local Authority have to enforce Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 of the Factory Acts in the first group and Section 7 in the Factories with power. This Section deals with the provision of Sanitary Accommodation.

The Inspector reports that 12 visits were paid and four defects were found and notified to the owners. In each case the defects were remedied.

Under Section 34 of the Act it is the duty of the L.A. to inspect all factories which employ more than 20 persons (or where there are ten or more persons employed on the first floor) and to issue certificates with respect to the means of escape available in case of fire.

Section D

HOUSING

Number of inhabited Houses	...	...	...	4,099
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	214
Number of applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	510
Number of Houses completed in 1951	...	...	...	43
Improvement Grants approved by Ministry	...	...	...	2
Number of Houses allotted for 1952	...	...	...	30*

* A further allocation may be made later.

As will be seen from the number of applications the demand for new houses continues notwithstanding the fact that since 1944 the Council have built 126 new houses. The population figures in the Census for 1951 show that the population has decreased by 565 since the previous Census in 1931. The demand for houses is therefore not due to an increase in population, as it is in some areas.

There can be no doubt that people are no longer content with the type of cottage which has sufficed in the past, but that they demand a home with modern amenities such as an indoor water-supply, bath-room, electric lighting, etc. Another factor no doubt is the increase of wages which makes it possible for agricultural and other workers to pay a much higher rent than was formerly possible for them to afford. Young married persons also may not be willing to stay with their parents as many formerly had to do. The distribution of the population in the houses available may also have changed in the last thirty years or more. For example, a large house in the country may formerly have housed the owner's family and a number of domestic workers, whereas now there may only be three or four persons in it.

It would be of interest to know whether the demand for new houses is the greatest in areas where wages are highest.

Whatever the cause of the present housing problem it has got to be faced by every local authority and the only solution is to expedite the building of new houses as much as possible and by every means available. Now that a higher proportion of private houses can be built if the local authority is willing, the rate of building may improve. However, another difficulty has arisen here as it has been found that owners of land suitable for building are not very willing to sell it, and this is especially the case near towns. Therefore the prospective house builders may find that although he has a licence he cannot purchase a suitable plot of land.

The local authority may now acquire land and sell plots of it to private builders and this may be the solution of this latter difficulty. During the year three houses were built by private enterprise but none were under construction privately at the end of 1951.

NEW HOUSES

During the year a total of 40 Council Houses were completed and at the end of the year a further 22 were under construction. The following are the sites of these houses and those which it is hoped to commence building in 1952:—

SITE	Number of houses completed in 1951		Number under construction at 31. 12. 51	Number to be commenced in 1952
		
Wall-under-Heywood	...	10	—	—
Caynham	...	4	—	—
Burford	...	12	—	30
Clee Hill	...	14	2	24
Cleobury Mortimer	...	—	16	—
Ticklerton	...	—	4	—
Knowbury	...	—	—	10
Longville	...	—	—	4

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Two applications by private owners for Improvement Grants under the above Act were approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during the year. Owners of property which it let at a controlled rent are not interested in improving their property even with the help of these grants. The high cost of labour and material in conjunction with the low rents charged render it unlikely that landlords will take advantage of Improvement Grants.

The Council acquired four cottages at Knowbury with a view to re-conditioning them but have now decided not to proceed with such a scheme owing to the cost. These cottages will be condemned and demolished when the occupants can be re-housed. A similar group of four cottages at Hints, Coreley, have been abandoned by the owner and the Rates have had to be recovered by the Council collecting the rents. This action by landlords of giving up cottages which they can neither sell nor repair will no doubt become more common as cottages become derelict in greater numbers.

A total of 35 licences were issued during the year in respect of repairs and alterations to houses. The value of these licences was £15,088 7s. The ceiling figure for the year was £15,200 and the maximum cost of work permissible without licence in connection with a private dwelling house was £100.

COUNCIL BUILDING DEPARTMENT

This department was started by the Council in April, 1950, in order to complete a contract for eight houses at Bitterley. At present there are 22 workmen employed in the department, and repairs to Council Houses are also carried out. In addition to the eight houses at Bitterley, four have been built at Caynham, four at Ticklerton and twelve are under construction at Burford.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT INSPECTION

The Inspector reports that the work of inspection at the Ministry of Food's Central Slaughterhouse at Craven Arms has been carried out as in former years and that 100% of the meat has been examined. The districts served include Ludlow R.D., the Boroughs of Ludlow and Bishop's Castle, Church Stretton U.D., Clun R.D. and a portion of Leominster and Wigmore R.D.

The work of inspection takes up a considerable part of the Inspectors' time and an average of six visits a week are paid to the abattoir throughout the year. In the months of September, October and November the numbers of animals slaughtered is very high and the work of inspection is hampered by the lack of space in the buildings. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Ministry of Food have now opened a new experimental abattoir at Guildford. This has been built on most up-to-date lines and is everything such a place should be to conform with modern ideas. It is to be hoped that such abattoirs will be built throughout the country as soon as it is possible to do so.

It will be seen that by far the highest percentage of animals found to be diseased were cows. Among these a total of 54 % were found to be affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and 37 % with Tuberculosis. Mr. Saunders points out that a large amount of the meat condemned came from 'casualties,' many of which may have suffered from disease before being slaughtered.

The figures which follow show the importance of the work of inspection of all meat intended for human consumption. The total number of animals slaughtered was more than in 1950 and the weight of meat condemned fell—from 29 tons to 24 tons.

Mr. Saunders reports that the Ministry of Food are considering the carrying out of improvements at the Craven Arms abattoir.

Other food premises, chiefly butchers' shops and also a pie and sausage factory at Burford were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1951

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1268	766	1079	6378	564
Number inspected	1268	766	1079	6378	564
All diseases except					
Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses					
condemned	...	9	12	10	49
Organs or part of					
carcase condemned	360	408	14	341	32
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected					
with disease other					
than Tuberculosis	29.1%	54.8%	2.2%	6.1%	8.1%
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses					
condemned	...	10	20	1	1
Organs or part of					
carcase condemned	169	270	1	0	9
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected					
with Tuberculosis	14.1%	37.8%	0.2%	0.02%	2.3%
Weight of Meat Condemned:—					
(1) On account of Tuberculosis	...			26,331	lbs.
(2) On account of other diseases	...			28,116	lbs.
			Total	54,447	lbs.
				= 24 tons 6 cws. 15 lbs.	

The following were other foods examined by the Inspectors and condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Corned Beef	...	...	...	28 tins
Canned Milk	...	...	...	10 tins
Processed Meat and Fish	...	...	...	28 tins
Fruits	...	...	...	73 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	51 tins
Dried Milk	...	...	...	6 cwts.
Cereals	...	...	...	20 lbs.

SUPERVISION OF MILK SUPPLY

The supervision of milk production at the farms is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. Local Authorities are still responsible for dairies other than these which are at farms—i.e., dairies which retail milk only.

There are seven such dairies in the District and the Inspector reports that these were all satisfactory during the year. There are no dairies with pasteurising plant for the heat treatment of milk in the area (or in Ludlow Borough). In cases where it is found necessary to order the pasteurising of a milk supply it has been found necessary to send the milk to a dairy outside the district. This is of importance in cases where a milk supply is found to be infected with Tuberculosis or other disease germs capable of infecting man. It would be a distinct advantage if a pasteurising plant could be established in the Rural District or in the Borough. Only by this means can milk be rendered safe from the danger of carrying various milk-borne diseases. In the large cities more than 90% of all milk sold is pasteurised already and only the shortage of suitable plant has prevented this treatment from becoming more general throughout the country.

Co-operation has been maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture Officials and with the Area Milk Offices in cases where milk has been found to be infected with the germs of Tuberculosis and the supply is ordered to be pasteurised until the milk from the herd concerned is certified as being free from the risk of spreading the disease. In such cases the Milk Marketing Board arranged for the retailer concerned to get another supply of milk if necessary so that his trade is not interfered with.

During the year two cases of Undulant Fever were notified and in both cases the milk supply was investigated by the Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and steps taken to prevent any other cases. It should be noted that this disease can be spread by Tuberculin Tested Milk as well as by ungraded milk and the only safeguard against it is to have milk pasteurised.

ICE CREAM

There are two ice cream manufacturers in the Rural District and these employ what is known as the 'cold mix' process. This means that they purchase the dried cream mixture in powdered form and mix it with water and then freeze it. It is therefore a fairly safe method especially for small manufacturers who have not the facilities for expensive equipment such as is required for heat treatment of the cream before freezing. The premises in both cases were found to be satisfactory.

There are also 12 retailers who sell pre-wrapped ice cream. In this case the ice cream is bought already packed and is not touched at all before sale. The only equipment required is therefore a refrigerator which is thermostatically controlled and keeps the ice cream below freezing point.

A total of 17 samples were reported on. The results were as follows:—

Total Samples	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
17	3	13	1	—

Samples in Grade I or Grade II are considered to be satisfactory. In cases where the Grade is III or IV a visit is paid to the shop and advice given as to improvement in methods, etc.

FOOD HYGIENE

Reference was made to this subject in last year's Report and attention drawn to the increase in the country generally of outbreaks of food poisoning. These outbreaks are generally traced to someone who is a 'carrier' of a disease and who infects food with his hands. Prevention of such outbreaks can be best assured by attention to personal hygiene and especially to the washing of hands before food is handled.

During the year no cases of food poisoning were notified in the District. The Ministry of Food requested all Councils to supply shops where food is sold with notices asking customers not to bring dogs into such shops. This has been done during the past year.

Comparison is often made in the Press between hygienic conditions as regards food handling in this country as compared with other countries. The creation of a Public Opinion here is the best way in which conditions in food shops can be improved.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year ending 31st December, 1951:—

NOTIFICATIONS — 1951

DISEASE		Number notified	Admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	1	—	—
Measles	...	95	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	65	—	—
Undulant Fever	...	2	1	—
Weil's Disease	...	1	1	—
Totals	...	168	2	—

During the year there was no epidemic of any serious infectious disease but Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent among the children. These diseases are especially dangerous to young infants as both are frequently complicated by broncho-pneumonia. Older children usually recover easier and therefore if younger children can be kept away from others who have these complaints there would be fewer fatal cases. However, this is difficult as usually a child of school age brings the disease home and the younger children acquire it from them. Inoculation of children to protect them against infection has not yet been proved to be sufficiently satisfactory as to warrant its universal adoption.

No cases of Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis or Food Poisoning was notified. The immunisation of children against diphtheria has been continued during the year and the fact that there has been no case of this disease notified in the district for the last nine years is sufficient proof of the value of the protection given.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases on the Register at the end of the year was as follows:—

MALES		FEMALES			<i>Total</i>
Pulm.	Non-pulm.	Pulm.	Non-pulm.	...	
26	15	22	8	...	71

Since last year the numbers on the Register have been revised in consultation with the Chest Physicians and the County Health Officer and a number of cases have been removed who have either left the district, have died or have been cured. The present figures are therefore a truer index of the actual number of cases in the district.

NEW CASES

Nine new cases were notified during the year. This is about an average number. Of these six pulmonary and one non-pulmonary were males and two pulmonary were females.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATES

Only one death from Tuberculosis was registered during the year. The patient was a woman and she died of the N.P. form of the disease. The death rate is therefore a very low one indeed. In 1950 there were four deaths.

Pulmonary Death-rate per 1,000	=	Nil
Non-pulm. Death-rate per 1,000	=	0.071
Total Death-rate (all forms)	=	0.071

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY - 1951

(IN AGE GROUPS)

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulm.	Non-pulm.	Pulm.	Non-pulm.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-5 yrs.								
5-15 "			1	1				
15-25 "								
25-35 "	3	1						
35-45 "	1							1
45-55 "	1							
55-65 "								
Over 65		1						
<hr/>	Totals	6	2	1	—	—	—	1

CANCER

Deaths from Cancer during the year numbered 18 which is a smaller number than usual for the district. The death-rate per 1,000 of the population from the disease is 1.359.

One of the most striking increases in the last few years has been that of Cancer of the Lung. The cause of this is not yet fully understood although many theories have been advanced.

Early operation still remains the means by which life can be prolonged but it is only when Cancer affects certain sites that this is possible. Symptoms of the disease may be very obscure in many cases. In other cases the patients delay going to a doctor because they are afraid of being told that they have the disease.

Research into the cause of Cancer has not yet been successful in finding if there is any definite factor concerned in its origin.

CAUSES OF DEATH

1951

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Diseases of Heart and Circul. ...	52	34	86
Cerebral Haem. and Thrombosis	25	16	41
Cancer	10	8	18
Pneumonia	8	7	18
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Influenza	3	6	9
Accidents	6	1	7
Tuberculosis	—	1	1
All other causes	20	16	36
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Totals ...	130	93	223
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